

METHODS OF ON-FARM EUTHANASIA (2 OF 2)

The following is a list of methods of euthanasia that are considered either acceptable or acceptable with the noted conditions. For a method to be considered acceptable, it must rapidly render the rabbit insensible and the rabbit must not return to sensibility prior to death.

Euthanasia Method	Acceptability by Rabbit Age and Weight	Conditions	Comments
Manual cervical dislocation	<p>Acceptable with conditions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-weaned kits <150 g (<0.3 lb) 	<p>Must result in separation (never crushing) of the cervical vertebrae.</p>	
Non-penetrating captive bolt device	<p>Acceptable with conditions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-weaned kits 150 g - 1 kg (0.3 - 2.2 lb) • Weaned and growing rabbits 1 - 1.5 kg (2.2 - 3.3 lb) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult rabbits > 1.5 kg (> 3.3 lb) 	<p>Proper restraint of the rabbit.</p> <p>Correct placement and aim of the device.</p> <p>Devices must be cleaned and maintained according to manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper function.</p>	
Gas inhalation: carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	<p>Acceptable with conditions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-weaned kits at least 2 weeks of age 150 g - 1 kg (0.3 - 2.2 lb) • Weaned and growing rabbits 1 - 1.5 kg (2.2 - 3.3 lb) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult rabbits > 1.5 kg (> 3.3 lb) 	<p>Requires specialized equipment (pressure reducing regulator, flow meter, CO₂ cylinder or tank) and a closed chamber to contain gas.</p> <p>Gradual fill chambers must be used, and the gas must be supplied in a precisely regulated and purified form without contaminants or adulterants.</p> <p>Rabbits must be placed in the chamber in a single layer and never overcrowded.</p>	<p>Use in a well-ventilated area for operator safety.</p>

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See Appendix F - Rabbit Code of Practice (2018) - Page 55
www.nfaac.ca/rabbit-code-of-practice#appendixG